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EGYPTIAN FRONT

Fighting began before dawn near Sucz City at the southern end of the canal. A UN observer southwest of the city reported explosions northeast of his position at 0608. The observer subsequently said that he was evacuating his position. Israeli spokesmen claimed later that the Egyptian forces from the 3rd Army now beseiged on the east bank of the canal began the firing and were attacking Israeli positions on the west Isracli air force fighter-bombers began attacking Egyptian positions heavily on the east bank later in the morning. Casualties have been taken by the Israeli forces and al least one medical evacuation helicopter returning to the Sinai with wounded on board. Prior to the onset of the firing, no fighting on the ground over the night and the air forces or both sides had been engaged in local defensive patrols. Israeli aircraft also flew reconnaissance missions over the canal area at dawn.

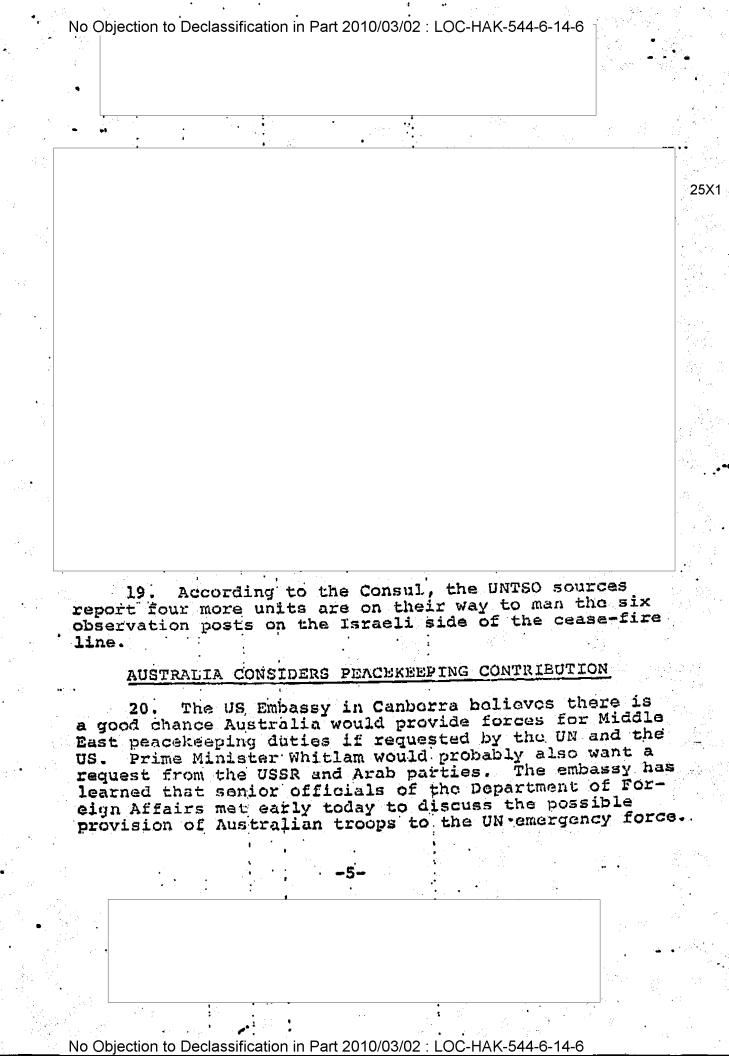
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ll. The Egyptians also have small patrol, torpedo, or guided missile boats in the Red Sca. The nearest Egyptian naval base at Al Ghurdagah (Hurghada) is only some 35 miles away. Starting at 0722--22 minutes after the tanker was reported struck--Israeli aircraft began

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flying over the area of the reported attack, joined some 20 minutes later by one holicopter. Israeli aircraft were subsequently in the vicinity of Al Ghurdagah and an air strike could be under way or impending. 12. The Egyptians had claimed that the Israelis sunk a Greek cil tanker off Sucz yesterday. The tanker off Sucz. SYRIAN FRONT 25 SYRIAN FRONT UNITED NATIONS	Objection to Declas	sification in	Part 2010/	03/02	LOC-HAK-	544-6-14-6		25>
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25. Muhsin added that the Iraqi troops in Syria represent a grave threat to the Syrian regime because the Iraqi officer corps consists entirely of dedicated Baath Party members who oppose Asad and who would like to see his regime replaced by another wing of the Syrian Baath Party.

OIL

- 26. Oil company representatives have informed the US that Saudi Arabia, in addition to previously announced embargo measures against the US, has ordered ARAMCO not to provide bunkers either to US navy vessels or to any ships under charter to the US military. The denial of bunkering is to include commercial tankers chartered by the Military Sea Command to transport contract petroleum products to US forces.
- 27. Bahrainis, according to industry sources, are also refusing to load contract petroleum products, but are still permitting tankers turned away as a result of the Arab embargo to receive bunkers.
- 28. Canadian External Affairs Minister Sharp said yesterday that it was Abu Dhabi, and not Saudi Arabia, that had halted an oil shipment to Canada. Sharp said an earlier report of a halt by Saudi Arabia was incorrect. Arab ambassadors, in a meeting with Sharp, could give no reason for the reported Abu Dhabi action. Energy Minister MacDonald speculated that Abu Dhabi may not understand that oil shipments to Portland, Maine, are for bonded pipeline transit to Montreal.

ARAB BOYCOTT

29. According to UPI, the commissioner-general of the Office of the Arab Boycott of Israel yesterday announced in Damascus that airlines and ships using Israeli air and sea ports would be blacklisted until Tel Aviv withdraws its forces from all occupied Arab territories in full compliance with the Security Council cease-fire resolutions.